

COUNTRY DATA: Germany : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

As Europe's largest economy and second most populous nation (after Russia), Germany is a key member of the continent's economic, political, and defense organizations. European power struggles immersed Germany in two devastating World Wars in the first half of the 20th century and left the country occupied by the victorious Allied powers of the US, UK, France, and the Soviet Union in 1945. With the advent of the Cold War, two German states were formed in 1949: the western Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the eastern German Democratic Republic (GDR). The democratic FRG embedded itself in key Western economic and security organizations, the EC, which became the EU, and NATO, while the Communist GDR was on the front line of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. The decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War allowed for German unification in 1990. Since then, Germany has expended considerable funds to bring Eastern productivity and wages up to Western standards. In January 1999, Germany and 10 other EU countries introduced a common European exchange currency, the euro. In January 2011, Germany assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2011-12 term.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark
Area	total: 357,022 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>62</u> land: 348,672 sq km water: 8,350 sq km
Climate	<u>Current Weather</u> temperate and marine; cool, cloudy, wet winters and summers; occasional warm mountain (foehn) wind
Natural Resources	coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber, arable land
Total Renewable Water Resources	188 cu km (2005)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 38.01 cu km/yr (12%/68%/20%) per capita: 460 cu m/yr (2001)

Natural Hazards	flooding
Environmental Issues	emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries contribute to air pollution; acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests; pollution in the Baltic Sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany; hazardous waste disposal; government established a mechanism for ending the use of nuclear power over the next 15 years; government working to meet EU commitment to identify nature preservation areas in line with the EU's Flora, Fauna, and Habitat directive
PEOPLE	
Population	82,282,988 (July 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>15</u>
Ethnic Groups	German 91.5%, Turkish 2.4%, other 6.1% (made up largely of Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish)
Religions	Protestant 34%, Roman Catholic 34%, Muslim 3.7%, unaffiliated or other 28.3%
Languages	German
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 99% male: 99% female: 99% (2003 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	N/A
GOVERNMENT	
Type	federal republic
Independence	18 January 1871 (German Empire unification); divided into four zones of occupation (UK, US, USSR, and France) in 1945 following World War II; Federal Republic of Germany (FRG or West Germany) proclaimed 23 May 1949 and included the former UK, US, and French zones; German Democratic Republic (GDR or East Germany) proclaimed 7 October 1949 and included the former USSR zone; West Germany and East Germany unified 3 October 1990; all four powers formally relinquished rights 15 March 1991; notable earlier dates: 10 August 843 (Eastern Francia established from the division of the Carolingian Empire); 2 February 962 (crowning of OTTO I, recognized as the first Holy Roman Emperor)
Constitution	23 May 1949, known as Basic Law; became constitution of the united Germany 3 October 1990
Legal System	civil law system with indigenous concepts; judicial review of legislative acts in the Federal Constitutional Court; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	

Agricultural Products	potatoes, wheat, barley, sugar beets, fruit, cabbages; cattle, pigs, poultry
Industries	among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding, textiles
Import commodities	among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding, textiles
Import Partners	France 10.2%, US 6.7%, Netherlands 6.7%, UK 6.6%, Italy 6.3%, Austria 6%, China 4.5%, Switzerland 4.4% (2009)
Export Commodities	machinery, vehicles, chemicals, metals and manufactures, foodstuffs, textiles
Export Partners	France 10.2%, US 6.7%, Netherlands 6.7%, UK 6.6%, Italy 6.3%, Austria 6%, China 4.5%, Switzerland 4.4% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	<p>\$35,900 (2010 est.)</p> <p>country comparison to the world: 31</p> <p>\$34,700 (2009 est.)</p> <p>\$36,400 (2008 est.)</p> <p><i>note: data are in 2010 US dollars</i></p>
Population below poverty line	11% (2001 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.